

# The Pensacola Journal

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PENSACOLA, FLORIDA, FRIDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 15, 1905

Several cities of Russia are reported as "quiet." All the inhabitants are probably dead.

Peace conferences have been called at The Hague and at Bern, Switzerland, but still the slaughter continues.

The Car of all the Russians isn't in it with the Car of all the members of the House of Representatives, U. S. A.

Now that burglars are beginning to get active again it is believed that the stock of clues at police headquarters will be materially increased before Christmas arrives.

"The measure of success is not what we get out of life, but what we leave after it," wrote Editor N. G. Gonzalez, of the Columbia, (S. C.) State, who was subsequently shot down in cold blood on the streets of Columbia by Lieutenant Governor Tillman. Now his fellow citizens have erected a monument to his memory on which is carved the words:

Great Editor,  
An Eminent Citizen,  
An Honest Man,  
Without Fear and Without Reproach,  
His Fellow-Citizens Bear  
This Monument  
To Perpetuate His Memory.

Verily, his measure of success was fully achieved.

Kansas City Republicans, bubbling over with enthusiasm for the President, have composed a Roosevelt ballad, the chorus of which is as follows:

"Roosevelt, Roosevelt,  
When you buckle on your belt,  
You bet you make your presence  
felt."

Roosevelt, Roosevelt,  
The fighting, shooting, hell's-a-tooting  
President."

The ballad-smith of the New Orleans States, upon reading the above was suddenly inspired to tear off the following, which the States believes is fully in keeping with the spirit of the Kansas City effort:

O, Roosevelt, O, Roosevelt,  
On summer's night or winter's morn  
We'll follow you to hell and gone,  
Without breech-clout or shoes' pelt,  
But with every drink of booze felt,  
O, sipping, ring-tailed Teddy, O, roaring,  
red hot Roosevelt.

To the above another verse might be added which, while not so fiery as the others, would show a little more subservience to The Great One:

O, Roosevelt, Paid Roosevelt,  
You're plain old Dutch and not a Celt,  
You pulled the strings and pranced  
around,

While we, your subjects, on the ground  
In homage kneel.

Great Roosevelt; tough Roosevelt.  
Our broncho busting, wildcat killing,  
punch-eating, Roosevelt.

## AMUNDSEN AND THE NORTHWEST PASSAGE.

Savannah News.

Capt. Amundsen, the Norwegian explorer, did not really strike a new ocean trail when he sailed his ship from Greenland to the shores of Alaska. He was not the first to discover the passage nor the first to traverse it, although his route differed in several particulars from the routes taken by his predecessors. It is recorded as a historical fact that the ill-fated Sir John Franklin actually found the passage, but the world never knew it until the remains of a part of his crew were discovered by Lt. Schwatka in 1879. The third and last of Sir John's expeditions was undertaken in 1845. Following Franklin there were a number of explorers to attempt the unravelling of the secrets of the frozen north, among them Dr. Kane, Grinnell and others, and Capt. Robert L. McClure. The British government had offered a reward of \$100,000 to any man who would find and sail through the northwest passage. Capt. McClure found it, made the voyage through it successfully, returning to England, collected the reward and was knighted by Queen Victoria in recognition of his services. Thus it appears that Franklin was the discoverer and McClure the first navigator of the long-sought passage, which had been the will-o'-the-wisp of governments and navigators for hundreds of years.

Columbus was in search of this short way to the Indies when he

covered America. Henry Hudson imagined that he had found it when he sailed into the mouth of the river that bears his name. Champlain was confident that he was in the northwest passage when he entered the St. Lawrence. They were all mistaken of course, but each found something of far greater value to civilization and commerce than the northwest passage can ever be. Capt. Amundsen's feat in sailing through it will not prove of commercial or other practical value.

During the greater part of the year the passage is impassably blocked with ice, so that it can never become a highway of shipping.

To the scientific world the voyage will prove very interesting, since Capt. Amundsen is said to have located the north magnetic pole—which, by the way, had been previously located in 1831, by Commander John Clark Ross, on the western shore of Boothia Felix. However, it has never been definitely settled whether the pole is fixed or migratory, and Amundsen may be able to give information on that point. Thus the fact that he has navigated the northwest passage and located the pole is interesting chiefly from the point of view of the scientific world. That his efforts and his success will be of benefit to science is quite certain, and his name will be placed high in the list of Arctic explorers.

It is hoped upon his return to civilization Capt. Amundsen will be able to throw some light upon the fate of the 105 members of Sir John Franklin's party who, under the leadership of Capt. Crozier, tried to find their way out of the frozen wilderness after the rest of the party had perished. Schwatka found the bodies of the twenty-four but the 105 have never been heard of to this day.

## John Sharp Williams 'and the "Recalcitrants"

Atlanta News.

Monday's session of the house of representatives was marked by one of the most sensational episodes which has occurred in that deliberative body for a long time, and brought to public attention a condition of affairs which the News exposed editorially about ten days ago.

When the committees for the forty-ninth congress were made up, Mr. John Sharp Williams, exercising the function which is his as leader of the Democratic minority, deliberately omitted Congressman Lamar, of Florida, and Mr. Shackelford, of Missouri, from the committee on interstate and foreign commerce.

There was a story behind this notable omission, one of the strongest and most loyal Democrats in the house from what would naturally be one of the most important committees of the present congress. This story has been well known among the friends of Messrs. Lamar and Shackelford ever since the incidents occurred which gave rise to it. But in order that it might be more clearly understood, The News took occasion to explain the matter several days ago.

When the committees were announced in the house on Monday, Congressman Lamar rose to the desk and had read a newspaper clipping in which Mr. Williams was quoted as claiming that Messrs. Lamar and Shackelford had been dropped from the committee because of their refusal to follow the caucus program of the Democratic minority.

This was so distinctly and essentially untrue in letter and spirit that Mr. Lamar rose to a question of privilege and attempted to explain the matter. The speaker ruled that the statements contained in the interview did not constitute a privileged question and Congressman Lamar could only explain his position under a rule of unanimous consent. Mr. Williams quickly rose from his seat in the rear and advanced down the aisle with an exhibition of considerable feeling and objected to what he was pleased to characterize as "the washing of the dirty linen of Democracy in the house."

Mr. Lamar was thus forestalled from making the explanation he desired and after considerable excitement in the house, the day's session adjourned.

In the interest of truth and fairness the story of the caucus to which Mr. Williams alludes should be told again. The facts are that in January or February last, the question came up in

## STATE PRESS COMMENT ON WILLIAMS VERDICT.

St. Augustine Record.

The information given by the Pensacola Journal that the trial of William F. Williams for murdering two prominent citizens of Pensacola, John White and Edwin C. Dansby, has cost the people of Escambia county not less than \$6,000, will not be received with a great deal of pleasure. While the state will bear a portion of this heavy expense, the object lesson is not one which lessened in force. To cap the whole proceeding Williams was, in both trials, allowed to escape a just penalty by securing a recommendation to mercy which, of course, means a life sentence and possibly a little later on a pardon.

Tallahassee True Democrat.

Another West Florida jury has convicted Williams, the slayer of John White and Edwin C. Dansby, in Pensacola, and recommended the murderer to the mercy of the court, which, under the law, calls for a sentence of life imprisonment. No more deliberate and cold-blooded murder was ever committed, yet the juries in these two cases against Williams appeared to be so reluctant to impose the legal penalty that the result amounts to a practical failure of justice. What is the matter with our juries?

Madison News Enterprise.

Pensacolians are wroth because a Jackson county jury last week added to its verdict of guilty a recommendation that the court extend mercy to young Williams, who last summer shot down and killed his employer, John White, seriously wounded his son, and shot and killed a fellow clerk named Dansby. Pensacolians should not be so enraged, it is to be remembered that an Escambia county jury a few months ago made the same recommendation when the young man was tried for killing his employer. Williams should feel himself most fortunate in having escaped with his neck.

Marianna Times-Courier.

The Pensacola papers were not very lenient in their criticisms of the Jackson county jury which tried Williams last week for the murder of Dansby. It is one thing to criticize and another to serve on a jury.

FLIRTATION.

Two idle eyes one time I knew,  
As tender as the heavens blue;  
Idle, so far as I could see,  
Save when their glances fell on me,  
And there was lots for them to do.

They were so soft, so sweet, so true,  
I worshipped them, of course, and you;  
A dearer girl there could not be  
To idolize.

You let me flirt and gently woo;  
You let me supplicate and sue;  
But when I set my passion free,  
And vowed my love on bended knee,  
All that you said was, "Those are two  
Too idle lies."

—Felix Carmen, in January Smart Set.

the house as to whether General Miles would be permitted to receive a salary from the state of Massachusetts in addition to his regular salary as a United States officer. The Democrats divided on this subject, about one-half voting with Mr. Williams, who advocated giving him this permission, and the other half of the Democrats voting against it. Mr. Williams is said to have become furious at this division in the ranks of the Democrats and immediately set down and wrote out a call for a Democratic caucus for the purpose of tendering to that body his resignation as a minority leader.

Both of the afternoon papers in Washington published the item and announced that the caucus was for the purpose of allowing Mr. Williams to resign.

But between the Saturday of the division and the Monday night of the caucus, Mr. Williams's friends persuaded him, in his cooler moments, not to tender his resignation, and in order to supply a subject for the purpose of the caucus that he had called, he designed that the great question of railroad reform should be taken up and passed upon. Let it be borne in mind that at this time the committee on interstate and foreign commerce was busy hearing evidence which might be used to guide them in drawing a satisfactory bill. No one anticipated anything like final caucus action on this great measure at such short notice.

Mr. Lamar sent word to Mr. Williams that he would willingly vote to adopt any bill that night as a prospective bill, but certainly hoped that it would not be such as to limit the power of Democrats generally and the members of the interstate committee, particularly, so as to constrain them into reporting finally the caucus bill unless it was a complete measure to reform railroad abuses.

There was considerable debate in caucus Monday night and considerable feeling was manifested. Mr. Lamar distinctly raised a question, and so did other members of the caucus, as to whether, after they had adopted the caucus bill, that night as a Democratic caucus measure, they would be fully and finally committed to its terms and be unable to bring in further remedial legislation.

It was thoroughly understood that the caucus would adopt this Davey bill and its provisions only to the effect that much at least which related to railroad reform was the Democratic party committed to.

This bill consisted of two sections,

the first section giving power to the part of the interstate commerce commission to revise a given railroad rate upon complaint, and if they found it unjust, to substitute in lieu thereof a just and reasonable rate, which should be considered to be good and go into effect and continue in effect until revised by the courts.

The second section provided merely for the proposed appeal from the order of the interstate commerce commission on any disputed point to the supreme court of the United States. This was all there was to the Davey bill.

The idea of rushing the Democratic members of congress into a caucus to discuss and debate a measure which had been three times demanded in the Democratic platform, and the idea of asking them to commit themselves even in a casual manner was nothing short of ridiculous.

The measure itself, as it stood, was more notable for what it omitted than for what it contained. There was not a word in the bill about the power of the commission to regulate joint rates. There was not a syllable in it to remedy the private car line devices. There was not a line in it to regulate or limit the system of swindling the people along the line of what is known as the terminal fees. There was not in the bill that which would enable the interstate commerce commission to examine the books of the railroad companies; to see how they were keeping accounts and whether or not they were defrauding the people by juggling prohibiting midnight rates and guarding against every feature of railroad devices for changing published rates without giving notice.

There was no provision for a fine for the violation of the proposed law.

Each and every one of these salient features were embraced in the Hearst bill and it had been on file in congress, before the committee on interstate and foreign commerce, as far back as February, 1904. Mr. Williams should have been familiar with the salient features of the Hearst bill and consequently should have guarded against committing the Democracy to any such measure as the caucus Davey bill. But, as the story goes, Mr. Williams entertains a bitter personal antagonism toward Mr. Hearst and everything in his power to strangle the Hearst bill in the last congress.

Surely the Davey bill, which was about to be forced into the limelight of this hurried caucus, was not such a measure as the Democrats would be willing to adopt as a finality.

Several members who had signed the call for the caucus had their names stricken off at the request of Mr. Williams's friends on the ground that "John Sharpe Williams has gotten himself into a hole and we must let him out of it."

Mr. Lamar declined to take its name from the caucus, call, saying that if Mr. Williams wanted the caucus recalled, let him do it himself.

He and others were truly amazed on this conspicuous Monday of the caucus when on a majority vote of the house they learned that Mr. Williams intended to push the Democrats into a caucus that night on the railroad rate question, when not a single member of it was prepared to discuss the measure.

After the bill left the caucus, and after the hearings before the committee on interstate commerce had been finished, the latter made two reports. The first was a majority report signed by Republican members proposing to use a Republican measure called the Esch-Townsend bill. The second report was made by the minority Democratic members and they reported the caucus bill of two sections plus the five sections which the Democrats on the interstate committee had added.

If the caucus bill was sacred how could the committee dare to touch it? And when they had amended the bill by adding five sections to make it somewhat complete, they did it in obedience to the latitude given them by the Democratic caucus.

When the bill reached the house it was still so imperfect on the last day of debate, when the Esch-Townsend bill was exhibited, that it was voted down, and John Sharpe Williams actually took the floor and implored the Republicans to allow him to add three sections to his bill, one covering terminal fees and another private car fees.

From all of this it would appear that the caucus action was not in fact final nor was it understood to be. When the Democratic minority members reported the Davey bill, which was the caucus bill of five sections, Mr. Shackelford, from Missouri, and Mr. Lamar, from Florida, merely made a subsidiary report on the Hearst bill as embracing remedial legislation which they hoped finally to see become effective. This did not place the Hearst bill on the calendar of the house, because the committee was limited to a majority and minority bill.

The only effect of their action was to have the printed reports laid upon the desks of members for informal consideration.

When Mr. Lamar addressed the house he addressed it on the Esch-Townsend bill, the Davey bill and also on the features of the Hearst bill. There was nothing informal or irregular in his entire attitude toward this measure. He voted for the Davey bill in caucus; to add five sections to the Davey bill; in committee; he joined in the report with the other Democratic members on the committee in reporting to the house the Davey bill; he voted for the Davey bill on the floor of the house as a substitute for the Esch-Townsend bill, and when it was voted down by the Republicans, he voted for the Esch-Townsend bill on its final passage.

From all of this it will be seen in the first place that Mr. John Sharpe Williams has been apparently governed by his resentment toward Mr. Hearst and by the bitterness of his own personal feelings rather than by his devotion to the cause of Democracy. When these facts become generally known it will not contribute anything to the esteem in which Mr. Williams is held that he should extricate himself from a dilemma in which his own personal impulsiveness had placed him by foisting upon the Democratic caucus the hasty adoption of

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an immature measure.

Nor was he content to let his personal feelings end there. It appears that he was determined to punish Mr. Lamar and Mr. Shackelford for what he regarded as insubordination. He objected to any explanation on the part of Mr. Lamar on Monday when the committee names were read, on the grounds that as did not wish to wash the dirty linen of Democracy on the floor of the house.

For the benefit of all concerned, however, we present these veritable inside facts as we have been able to gather them from most reliable sources and give them to the public in the interest of Democracy and the general good.

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# AN INSURANCE COMPANY THAT ESCAPED.

Read what the New York Herald says of the investigation of the Home Life Insurance Company. The Herald of Dec. 10, said:

Mr. Hughes practically finished his inquiry into the affairs of the Home Life Insurance Company, of this city without having found anything scandalous in connection with its affairs. So much could hardly have been said of any other company that has yet come under his scrutiny. His inquiry was no less searching than heretofore, but the officers of this company apparently survived it unscathed.

George E. Ide, president of the company, testified that his company deals with no particular brokerage house, has joint accounts with no banker or broker, has no investment exceeding \$10,000 in any trust company or bank and that neither his company nor any of its officers has ever taken part in syndicate participation.

During nearly twenty years the company's surplus has not been largely increased. The witness explained this by the statement that he thought the surplus reserve sufficiently large in proportion to the company's assets and believed the policy holders should share in any excess. The excess in Mr. Ide's said he knew of no other New York company which makes an annual accounting on deferred dividends, such as the Home Life has maintained for twenty years.

In Mr. Ide's opinion ten per cent of any company's assets constitutes a sufficiently large surplus reserve for all contingencies, "provided its securities be of a sufficiently high class." Under the Home Life's system the dividends allotted to the holders of its deferred dividend policies are absolutely figured out every year, and by a card catalogue system any holder of a policy in this class may learn at any time precisely what the accumulations upon his policy have amounted to down to date.

When Mr. Hughes asked the witness to tell him frankly if he were seeking life insurance whether he would advise him to take out a deferred dividend or an annual dividend policy, Mr. Ide said he would distinctly advise the deferred dividend policy, "provided an annual accounting was offered." Otherwise he said he would not so advise. As stated by the Herald yesterday, the Armstrong committee is likely to urge legislation making some such accounting obligatory upon all companies dealing in deferred dividend policies.

Mr. Ide said he knew of no other New York company which makes an annual accounting on deferred dividends, such as the Home Life has maintained for twenty years.

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